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Appl. No. 10/634,873
Amendment dated November 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2004

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 to 16 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq (FR-1,277,394) in view of Witjes.d

Claims 3, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq in view of Witjes as applied to Claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Schroeder et al.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq in view of Witjes further in view of Schroeder et al. as applied to Claims 1, 2 and 4 and further in view of Lindstrom.

Claims 11 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bracq in view of Witjes as applied to Claims 1 and 10 above, and further in view of Massé.

Claims 6 and 7 were indicated as allowable.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to introduce therein the subject matter of former Claims 2, 4 and 6. Claim 6 has been indicated as allowable and thus new amended Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 2, 4 and 6 have been cancelled as the subject matter thereof has been introduced into amended Claim 1. The dependency of Claims 3, 5 and 7 has been changed in view of the cancellation of Claims 2, 4 and 6.

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The application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect would be much appreciated.


Respectfully submitted,

Jérôme LAVOIE

By:

November 30, 2004

Date


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

KEVIN P. MURPHY, Reg. No. 26,674
Name of person signing certification


Signature

November 30, 2004
Date